A

Short and Plain

CATECHISM

Instructing a Learner

OF

CHRISTIAN RELIGION,

what he is to believe, and

what to Practise.

The Fourth Edition.

LIBRARY OF TH
UNION
THEOLOGICAL SEMINA
NEW YORK

London, Printed, for *Francis Tyton*, at the three Daggers near the Inner-Temple Gate in *Fleetstreet*. 1668.

LIBRARY OF UNION
THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY
NEW YORK
GIFT OF
DAVID H. McALPIN.

A Short

CATECHISM.

Queſt.

WHAT *is man?*

Anſw. A reaſonable creature.

Q. *What mean you when you ſay you are reaſonable?*

A. I mean I am above a beaſt, and have ſomething within me whereby I know what I do, and why.

Q. *That I may ſee how your knowledge leads to practice: tell me, what learn you from your being reaſonable?*

A. That I never do any thing of which I cannot give a good account to my ſelf and others.

Q. *You ſaid you was a creature, what mean you by that?*

A. I mean, I once was not, but was made, and am preſerved by another.

Q. *What learn you hence?*

A. That I muſt conſtantly live in dependance on him that made me.

Q. *Who made you?*

Gen. 1. 26, 27. *A.* God.

Q. *What is God?*

a Iohn 4. 24. *b* Pſal. 103. 8. *c* 1 Pet. 1. 5, 16. *d* Rom. 16. 27. Rom. 11. 33. *e* Iob 40. 9, &c. *A.* God is a Being wholly *a* ſpiritual, and therein above my ſelf, moſt *b* gracious, *c* holy, *d* wiſe, *e* powerful, infinite in all perfections, and therein above all ſpirits.

Q. *You ſay God is a Being wholly ſpiritual, what mean you by it?*

Ier. 32. 18, 19. Iob. 11. 7. *A.* I mean he is a Being that hath no fleſh and bones as I have, and cannot be perceived by any of my ſenſes, nor can I make any thing like him.

Q. *You have acknowledged a God, and told me he is a Spirit, what learn you hence?*

Ioh. 4. 23, 24. *A.* That I am bound to worſhip him, and to worſhip him in ſpirit.

Q. *You ſaid he was gracious, what mean you by his grace?*

Exod. 34. 6, 7. Pſal. 119. 68. *A.* I mean his readineſs to do all good.

Q. *What*

Q. *What learn you hence?*

A. To expect from his bounty whatſoever he ſeeth needful for me. Pſal. 13. 5, 6. Pſal. 39. 7.

Q. *You ſaid God was holy, what mean you by it?*

A. That he neither can or will do any evil, and can neither love nor approve it in any other. Pſal. 11. 7. Exod. 20. 5. Hab. 1. 13.

Q. *What learn you hence?*

A. Never to imagine his grace will countenance me in ſin. Exod. 34. 6, 7.

Q. *You ſaid God was wiſe, what mean you by it?*

A. That he hath *f* knowledge of all things, and *g* ability to do all things according to it. *f* Jer. 32. 19. Prov. 15. 3. *g* Prov. 8. 14, 15, 16.

Q. *What learn you hence?*

A. To do all *h* as in his ſight, and begging direction of him to reſt *i* ſatisfied in his diſpoſal. *h* Heb. 4. 13. *i* Pſal. 37. 5, 6, 7. Pſal. 39. 9.

Q. *You ſaid God was powerful, what mean you by it?*

A. That he is *k* almighty, and can do all things, that *l* agree with his wiſdom and holineſs. *k* Gen. 5. 11. *l* Job 34. 12. Tit. 1. 2.

Q. *What learn you hence?*

A. To fear him * above all creatures, being *m* confident, that what he * Mat. 10. 28. *m* 2 King. 7. 1, 2.

Eph. 3. 20. hath promised or threatned, shall be fulfilled, though it seem impossible to flesh and blood.

Q. *You added God was infinite in all perfections, what doth that teach you?*

Job 26. 14. Rom. 11. 33. *A.* Never to admit any low or unworthy thoughts of God; and when I have the highest, then to remember I know him best, when I admire him most.

Q. *You have told me you was made, and that God was your maker, for what end did he make you?*

n Eccl. 12. 13. *o* Mat. 5. 8. *A.* That by *n* faithful service to him, I might *o* be happy in the enjoyment of him.

Q. *What learn you hence?*

Psal. 62, 5, v. 8, 9, 10. *A.* Carefully to perform my duty to God, and never to seek happiness in worldly pleasures, and profits, or any thing below him.

Q. *You were made to serve God, how will he be served?*

2 Tim. 3. 15, 16, 17. *A.* According to his will revealed in the Scriptures, wherein all things are contained, which I am to believe and practise.

Q. *What learn you hence?*

A. Di-

A. Diligently to read & search them. 1 Tim. 4. 13 Joh. 5. 39.

Q. *What doth the Scripture teach you concerning man, which you have not yet told me?*

A. The Scriptures give the History of the creation of the world out of nothing, and of *Adam* the first man.

Q. *How was* Adam *the first man created?*

A. The Scripture saith, God made him in his own *p* Image, that he was *q* upright, and set as Lord *r* over his Works. *p* Gen. 1. 26. Gen. 5. 1. *q* Eccl. 7. 27. *r* Gen. 1. 26.

Q. *What learn you hence?*

A. To admire Gods goodness in making the world and man in it, in such an excellent estate, since nothing made by him, could bring any profit to him. Psal. 104. The whole Psalm. Psal. 8. 3, 4, 5, 6.

Q. *Did* Adam *always continue in the state God made him?*

A. No: he disobeyed Gods command in eating forbidden fruit, and so fell from it. Gen. 3.

Q. *What learn you hence?*

A. Never to charge God with mans sin, but condemn him whose behaviour was unworthy to God, and cruel to himself. Jam. 1. 13, 14.

Q. *What was the ſtate into which he fell?*

Gen. 3. Rom. 5. 12. Jam. 1. 14, 15. A. A ſtate of ſin and miſery.

Q. *What is the ſtate in which you are?*

A. Mine, and every mans is the ſame, for we all find in our ſelves luſt conceiving and bringing forth ſin, and ſin finiſhed, bringeth forth death.

Q. *What learn you hence?*

Rom. 7. 24. A. To bewail my ſad and lamentable condition from which I am not able to deliver my ſelf.

Q. *O wretched creature that thou art, Who can or will deliver thee?*

Rom. 7. 25. A. I thank God through Jeſus Chriſt whom he hath provided to be a Saviour.

Q. *Who is this Jeſus Chriſt the Saviour?*

Joh. 1. 14. 1 Tim. 3. 16. A. God and man, or God manifeſted in the fleſh.

Q. *What learn you hence?*

Heb. 2, 16, 17, 18. Heb. 4. 14, 15, 16. A. To be much incouraged, notwithſtanding my ſad condition, ſince my Saviour being both God and man is able and willing to help me.

Q. *What did Chriſt do for you.*

ſ Heb. 4. 15. A. He lived a holy ſ yet an afflicted life,

life, and *t* dyed for our ſins upon the Croſs, *u* roſe out of the grave, *x* aſcended into heaven, where he now ſits to make interceſſion. *y*

t 1 Pet. 3. 18.
u Mat. 28. 6. Rom. 4. 15.
x Act. 1. 9. Eph. 4. 8.
y Heb. 7. 25.

Q. *What learn you hence?*

A. *a* Cheerfully to obey him, and willingly to part with every thing for him, who parted with life for me, and is ſtill mindfull of me.

a 2 Cor. 5. 14, 15.

Q. *What good do you hope for from this Saviour?*

A. A *b* ſupply of all my wants; eſpecially *c* forgiveneſs of my ſins, *d* ſanctification, and everlaſting *e* ſalvation.

b Rom. 8. 32. Phil. 4. 19.
c Act. 5. 31. Tit. 3. 5, 6.
d Tit. 3. 7.
e Heb. 5. 9.

Q. *What learn you hence?*

A. In no caſe to entertain any deſpairing thoughts.

Q. *How muſt you addreſs your ſelf to God, for the obtaining the mercies you hope for by Chriſt?*

A. *f* Firſt, with a deep ſenſe of my unworthineſs, unfeignedly repenting that ever I ſinned againſt him, *g* (2) With a real ſenſe of his undeſerved goodneſs, humbly by faith in Chriſt expecting from his free grace. *h* (3) Heartily reſolving to walk before him

f Jam. 4. 8, 9, 10. Iſa. 1. 15, 16, 17, 18. Act. 8. 22.
g Heb. 10. 20, 21, 22.
h Iſa. 55. 6, 7. Act. 9. 6.

him in newneſs of life all my dayes.

Q. *By your anſwer, you may perceive an abſolute neceſſity of repentance, faith, and newneſs of life; firſt, what is repentance?*

2 Cor. 7. 10, 11. Heb. 6. 1.

A. Such a ſorrow for ſin, that works hatred and forſaking of it.

Q. *What is faith in Chriſt?*

i Joh. 6. 69. Chap. 11. 27. *k* Mark. 1. 15. Acts 15. 7. *l* Heb. 11. 8. *m* v. 7. *n* v. 13. Rom. 4. 18, 19, 20, 21.

A. A hearty perſwaſion that he is the *i* Saviour, that *k* what he hath ſaid, and what is ſaid of him in the Goſpel, is true; ſo as to *l* obey his commands, *m* fear his threatnings, *n* truſt him for the performances of all his promiſes.

Q. *What is newneſs of life?*

A. It conſiſts in denying ungodlineſs, and worldly luſts, and living ſoberly, righteouſly and godlily.

Q. *When may you be ſaid to live ſoberly?*

Rom. 13. 13. 1 Theſ. 5. 7, 8. Tit. 3. 2.

A. When in all things I live temperately and chaſtly, moderating all unruly paſſion.

Q. *When may you be ſaid to live righteouſly?*

Mat. 7. 12.

A. When in all my dealings I do as I would be done by.

Q. *When may you be ſaid to live godlily?*

A. When

A. When in my whole converſation I behave my ſelf towards God, as my *o* Creator and my *p* Redeemer. *o* Pſal. 100. 1, 2. *p* 1 Cor. 6. 20. 1 Pet. 1. 17, 18.

Q. *I hope you intend to practiſe all this, but are you able of your ſelf?*

A. No, I am not of my ſelf ſufficient, ſo much as to think one good thought. 2 Cor. 3. 5.

Q. *What muſt enable you?*

A. Gods bleſſed Spirit which he hath promiſed. Luk. 11. 13. Eph. 3. 16.

Q. *You ſay the ſpirit muſt enable you, are you then idly to lye ſtill and do nothing?*

A. No, I am therefore to work out my ſalvation with fear and trembling, becauſe God works in me to will and to do of his good pleaſure. Phil. 2. 12, 13.

Q. *If you muſt not be idle what means muſt you uſe?*

A. q Firſt, reading, hearing, meditating of the Word (which is the power of God to ſalvation) *r* (2) Prayer *ſ* (3) ſerious conſideration of my actions, and of all Gods providences to my ſelf and others *t* (4) Uſe of the ſacraments, Baptiſm, and the Lords Supper. *q* 1 Tim. 4. 13, 15, 16. Rom. 10. 17. *r* Luk. 11. 13. *ſ* Pſal. 119. 59. Act. 16. 25, &c. *t* Mat. 16. 16. 1 Cor. 11. 24, 25.

Q 1

Q. *I leſs ſuſpect your knowledge in the reſt, what is Baptiſm?*

A. Waſhing with water in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghoſt.

Mat. 28. 19.

Q. *Of what uſe may your Baptiſm be to you, ſince you was Baptiſed in your infancy?*

A. The conſideration of it provokes to newneſs of life, *u* (1) Becauſe outward waſhing ſignifies purity. *x* (2) Becauſe my being baptized in Chriſts Name, engages me to own his Doctrine, and keep his Laws, *Gal.* 3. 27.

u Act. 22. 16. Rom. 6. 4.
x 1 Cor. 1. 13, 15.
1 Cor. 10. 2.

Q. *What is the Lords Supper?*

A. It's according to Chriſts inſtitution, bread broken and eaten, wine powred forth and drunk, in remembrance of Chriſt, whoſe body was broken for us, and blood ſhed for the remiſſion of ſin.

Mat. 26. 26, 27, 28.
1 Cor. 11. 24, 25.

Q. *How is this uſefull to provoke you to newneſs of life?*

A. While the evil of ſin, and the love of Chriſt crucified is herein ſet before my eyes, I am conſtrained to live to him who dyed for me.

Q. *I pray God whenſoever you receive this*

this Sacrament, you may. But do all receive this benefit?

A. No, they cannot who underſtand not the ends of Chriſts death, nor they who deſire not to enjoy them. 1 Cor. 11. 21, &c.

Q. *What if you neglect theſe means and quench the ſpirit?*

A. I ſhew that I undervalue all that Chriſt hath done and ſuffered, and provoke God to bring on me a greater meaſure of his wrath, for this my contempt, than if I had never heard of a Saviour. John 3. 18, 19. Heb. 2. 3. Chap. 10. 29. Chap. 12. 25.

Q. *Do you believe God will bring this wrath on you, if you thus behave your ſelf?*

A. Yes, I believe God hath appointed a day wherein he will judge the world in righteouſneſs, and render to every man according to what he hath done in the fleſh, whether it be good or bad. Acts 17. 31. 2 Cor. 5. 10.

Q. *What ſhall be the condition of all men after the day of Judgement?*

A. To them who by patient continuance in well-doing, ſeek for glory God will give eternal life, but to them that obey not the truth, and live in unrighteouſneſs, Rom. 2. 7, 8, 9. Mat. 25. 31. &c.

unrighteouſneſs, tribulation, and anguiſh, indignation and wrath, the portion of every ſoul that doth evil.

Q. *Seeing we profeſs to believe theſe things, what manner of perſons ought we to be?*

A. We ought to live in all holy converſation and godlineſs, being diligent that we may be found of God in peace, without ſpot, and blameleſs; growing in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jeſus Chriſt: to whom be glory both now and for ever. *Amen.*

2 Pet. 3. 11, 14. 18.

The

THE CREED.

I Believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth. And in Jeſus Chriſt his only Son our Lord, which was conceived by the Holy Ghoſt, born of the Virgin Mary, ſuffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified dead and buried, he deſcended into Hell. The third day he aroſe from the dead. He aſcended into Heaven, and ſitteth on at the right hand of God the Father Almighty: From thence he ſhall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghoſt, the Holy Catholick Church, the Communion of Saints, the forgiveneſs of ſins, the reſurrection of the body, and the life everlaſting. Amen.

The LORDS PRAYER.

OUR Father which art in Heaven, Hallowed be thy Name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven, Give us this day our daily bread, And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors, And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.

The X. COMMANDMENTS.

GOD ſpake all theſe words, ſaying, I am the LORD thy God, which hath brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the houſe of bondage.

1 Thou ſhalt have no other gods before me.

2 Thou

2 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing, that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: thou shalt not bow down thy self to them, nor serve them: For I the LORD thy God am a Jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the Fathers upon the children, unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me: and shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me and keep my Commandments.

3 Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain: for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

4 Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy: six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD thy God, in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy man-servant, nor thy maid-servant, nor thy Cattel, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

5 Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

6 Thou shalt not kill.

7 Thou shalt not commit adultery.

8 Thou shalt not steal.

9 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

10 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbours house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbours wife, nor his man-servant, nor his maid-servant, nor his oxe, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbours.

FINIS.